

DEC 23 1961

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Grassroots Opinion

TO THE AMARILLO DAILY NEWS:

The following is an open letter to President Kennedy:

A little more than a year ago, you and LBJ were travelling the 50 states making woo with the voters. You had some remarks to make about Quemoy, the Cuban thing, the missile gaps, etc. Recently you have been a bit impatient with those who don't see eye to eye with the State Department's handling of the Yugoslav thing, the Cuban fiasco, etc.

I would remind you that a war was fought in 1776 over what was basically the theory that "The King Can Do No Wrong." The Constitution, that "18th century instrument of an agrarian economy" as Fulbright would say, guarantees the right to assemble freely and to speak freely and a lot of us are not going to give up that right without a fight.

Mr. President, we do not deny that we are concerned about weaknesses within. Some of us remember Alger Hiss, Owen Lattimore, Jacob Golos, Whitaker Chambers, Elizabeth Bentley, John Service. — but need I go on?

Then we see how the State Department is being run today, along with the CIA and the Supreme Court, and we keep wondering if the subversive activity has stopped.

We see Adlai at work in the UN and we remember that Hiss was our boy on the architects

team that drew it up. In fact, Hiss is said to have flown the original copy back to Washington. HST and Dean Acheson may have loved Hiss, but we can't say we do out here. We don't think our neighbors are Communists, but we can't feel so sure of some of the men you have about you in Washington.

And what good, in the light of the above mentioned facts, does it do us to develop a new military weapon when we have the feeling that the ink is not dry on the blueprint until a photostatic copy is on its way to Moscow? Remember the Silvermasters, the "heavy water" and a few other items that found their way out of this country a few short years back? We haven't forgotten them, I can assure you.

You can just bet we're concerned, especially after the Attorney General went on "Meet the Press" and openly stated that there is more Commie activity in Washington than ever.

We have no beautiful phrases to express our feelings so well as your ghost writers, and our boots may have a bit of the old barnyard stench, but we are not inclined to be lulled to sleep with the intoxicating phrases that come out in the liberal press. And we may as well admit that we do equate Fabian Socialism with the spending we are doing and we do equate socialism with Communism. (We claim no distinction for that comparison; "came out of Russia years ago. The wording was a bit different perhaps, but we think we know the general meaning.)

We, the people, have a sense of moral indignation at some of the things that come out of Washington in the name of "political expediency." We offer no apology for the way we feel. We feel that some of the laws passed have no justifiable moral basis in fact.

We can't say we like it when we see our tax money drained off and sent to Yugoslavia, Poland, British Guiana and other spots in the world. We can't see that we have made any friends by doing so and we think it could be better used at home. We aren't intellectuals out here on the Plains

but we believe, with the old fashioned morality, when vigorously alive, can see farther than intellect.

Mr. President, I am not a member of any group. I merely study and remember and I reserve the right to form an opinion and to state that opinion. When I can't state my opinion any longer, you will have already lost yourself a taxpayer.

I understand you once made some remarks on the Floor of the House a number of years ago that now would be construed as being "to the right."

How can you then be critical if some one now holds an opinion that you formerly had? Or had you forgotten that long ago speech, and the feeling of disappointment you felt when you saw the peace going down the river?

This letter is not intended to be disrespectful. Out here we merely feel that we have a right to hold an opinion different from yours without your impugning our motives.

WILLIAM H. BROWN
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